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CIA/RR CB-60-52

Copy No. _____
9 November 1960

SLP/C

CURRENT SUPPORT BRIEF

SOVIET IMPORTS OF WESTERN CHEMICAL EQUIPMENT
CONTINUE TO RISE SHARPLY

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND REPORTS

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

This report represents the immediate views of the
originating intelligence components of the Office
of Research and Reports. Comments are solicited.

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CONFIDENTIAL**SOVIET IMPORTS OF WESTERN CHEMICAL EQUIPMENT CONTINUE TO RISE SHARPLY**

Information recently published by the USSR indicates that Soviet imports of chemical equipment continued to rise sharply in 1959, mainly as a result of purchases in Western Europe. The USSR's chief source of chemical equipment imports in 1959 was the United Kingdom, which supplanted East Germany in this role. Purchases from the UK amounted to 134 million rubles (\$33.5 million)*, nearly equalling Soviet imports from all the European Satellite countries. Imports from West Germany in 1959, also exceeding those from East Germany, amounted to 88.9 million rubles (\$22.2 million). Although of lesser importance, purchases from France and Italy in 1959 also were significantly larger.

In 1957, imports from non-Bloc countries accounted for slightly less than a third of total Soviet imports of chemical equipment. In 1958, Soviet purchases from the West more than doubled and, in 1959, increased 300 percent. In contrast, imports of chemical equipment from the European Satellite countries did not quite double in 1958 and increased only 20 percent in 1959. As a result, Western European countries accounted for more than two thirds of total Soviet imports of chemical equipment in 1959.

In view of the ambitious plans of the USSR for expanding chemical production during the current Seven-Year Plan (1959-65) and considering the inadequacy of Soviet and other Bloc chemical equipment producers, as well as the Bloc lag in chemical technology, it is expected that the Soviet need for imports of chemical equipment from the West will continue to grow, and these imports will constitute the major portion of total Soviet imports of such equipment during the Seven-Year Plan period.

Table I

Soviet Imports of Chemical Equipment, 1957-59
(million rubles)

	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959***</u>
<u>Bloc countries</u>			
Czechoslovakia	18.8	48.1	58.9
East Germany	45.2	70.4	79.8
Hungary	<u>4.5</u>	<u>5.9</u>	<u>11.2</u>
Subtotal	68.5	124.4	149.9
<u>Non-Bloc countries</u>			
France	0.5	14.8	28.9
Italy	0	0.1	26.7
United Kingdom	0.9	25.1	134.0
West Germany	9.9	22.0	88.9
Other	<u>18.4</u>	<u>16.0</u>	<u>32.9</u>
Subtotal	29.7	78.0	311.4
Grand total	98.2	202.4	461.3

*Converted at the official rate of exchange: 1 US dollar equals 4 rubles.

**May not include pumps and compressors for use in chemical processes.

***In 1959, the USSR produced 1,757 million rubles of chemical equipment, an increase of 57 percent above the previous year.

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Analyst:

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Coord :

Sources:

Narodnoye khozyaystvo SSSR v 1959 godu: statisticheskiy yezhegodnik
(National Economy of the USSR in 1959: Statistical Yearbook), Moscow, 1960. U.

Vneshnyaya trgovlya SSSR za 1959 god (Foreign Trade of the USSR
Through 1959). Moscow, 1960. U.

JPRS:1087-D, 30 Dec 59, Foreign Trade of the USSR, 1958. U.

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28 November 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Analysis Branch, DD/CR
FROM : Chief, Publications Staff, ORR
SUBJECT : Release of ORR Current Support Brief
[REDACTED]

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1. It is requested that the attached copy of ORR Current Support Brief be forwarded as follows:

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[REDACTED]
CB 60-52, Soviet Imports of Western Chemical Equipment
Continue to Rise Sharply, 9 November 1960, Confidential,
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2. All ORR responsibilities as defined in the DDI Memorandum of 13 August 1952, "Procedures for Dissemination of Finished Intelligence to Foreign Governments," as applicable to these CB reports have been fulfilled.

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1 Attachment
[REDACTED]

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TO:

Chief, Dissemination Branch, Support Staff, OCI

Approved For Release 2000/05/12 : CIA-RDP79T01003A000900520001-4

FROM: Chief, Current Support Staff, ORR

SUBJECT: Distribution of Current Support Memorandum No. 60-52

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9 November 1960

TO: Chief, Dissemination Branch, Support Staff, OCI

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SUBJECT: Distribution of Current Support ~~Brief~~ ^{Brief} No.

CIA/RR CB-60-52

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TO RISE SHARPLY** (Title)

9 November 1960

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4 November 1960

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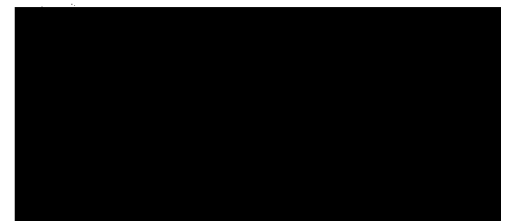
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